Sl.Coal Field No-	Block	Name of Allottee
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	Talabira I	INDALCO
23. lb-Valley	Talabira II	Samlai/ Panda
24. lb-Valley		
25. Talcher	Utkal-A	Kalinga Power
26. Talcher	Utkal-Bl	VPL/TMPL
27. Talcher	Utkal-C	ICCL
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.		
28. Jharia	Tasra	SAIL

Trade with some Countries

1215. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade between India, America, U.K. Pakistan, China, had doubled during, the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government to increase the trade among the aforesaid countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) As per the provisional data received from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), the total value of foreign trade between India, America, U.K., Pakistan and China respectively, during 1996-97 and 1997-98, in Rupee terms are:

(Rs. crores)

Country	Total Value of Trade (Export-l-lmports) 1996-97	1997-98
America	36356.58	38150.34
United Kingdom	14844.60	16274.35
Pakistan	686.48	676.82
China	4869.57	6835.27

Many steps have been taken in the direction of improving Bilateral and commercial relations. Bilateral Government Contacts between various economic ministeries and organisations have grown substantially over the last few years. There has also been an increase in the number of trade delegations exchanged with these countries. There is also an endeavour to adopt specific measures to strengthen the cooperation and raise dilateral trade and economic relations to a new level. Under the SAARC Preferential Trade Arrangements (SAPTA), import duties arc being brought down and non-tariff barriers are being removed to promote bilateral trade between India and Pakistan. Target is to establish a Free Trade Area among all SAARC member countries including India and Pakistan by 2001 A.D. Inspite of repeated proposals from India, Pakistan has not agreed to grant Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment to imports from India and continues to adopt a restrictive policy on imports from India.

Corruption Charges Against OfTicials of S.T.C.

1216. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been charges of corruption and other arts of malpractices levelled against the officials and lower level employees of the State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the nature of such complaints received during the last three years and in the current year, so far;

(c) whether any stern action has been taken to deal with these complaints to end the ongoing corruption in the export and import trade sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The nature of Complaints received against officials and lower level employees of STC during the last three years and in the current year broadly relate to:—

—Irregularities in commercial deals.

—Fraud and misappropriation of funds.

—Misuse of official vehicle.

—Irregular release of payments against bogus bills.

—Misuse of official position, powers manipulation and negligence.

—Tampering of official sanctions etc.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. To curb the tendency of corruption and malpractices in STC, the tenure of a senior appointee was not extended. In certain cases, persons *prima facie* found guilty have been put under suspension pending of final outcome of the investigations. In cases, where departmental inquiries have been completed; based on the-findings and keeping in view the magnitude of irregularities committee, appropriate penalties such as withholding of increment, and reduction to lower stage in the time scale of pay have been imposed.

Export of Ayurvedic Drugs

1217. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the plea of the Ayurvedic drug industry for review of the order banning export of even those ayurvedic drugs including chayavanprash whose formulation does not contain extracts from any plants of the banned list; and

(b) the final decision of Government on their plea?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Earlier there were 53 species of plants in the banned list and exports of these specific plants, plant portions and their derivatives and extracts, obtained from the wild, were prohibited. After intensive discussions, the above list of 53 plants species has now been reduced to 29 species with effect from 13.4.98. Plants and plant portions and their derivatives and extracts made from these 29 species of plants, obtained from the wild, is prohibited for exports. However those obtained from cultivated/imported sources are freely allowed for exports subject to production of a Certificate of Cultivation and CITES (the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species) Permit for export, wherever applicable.

Ayurvedic drugs whose formulations do not contain extracts from any of the 29 specified plants in the banned list are freely allowed for exports.

Review of Marrakesh Treaty

1218. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh negotiations are proposed to be undertaken with the World Trade Orgnisation for reviewing some of the provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty that have'relevance to developing countries;

(b) whether, before aproaching the WTO, the view of State Governments will be sought in matters which fall within the constitutional jurisdiction of the States; and

(c) whether it is proposed to set up a committee of technologists, economists